

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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| <b>COUNTRY</b>        | USSR                                   | <b>REPORT</b>          |                                  |
| <b>SUBJECT</b>        | Expansion of the Soviet Merchant Fleet |                        | <b>DATE DISTR.</b> 27 April 1955 |
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. During June 1954, the following four vessels were added to the Soviet Merchant Fleet:
  - a. A vessel of 3,300 DWT of the KOLNO Class. This vessel, which is used for carrying ore and coal, was built in the Szczecin Shipyard. This is the third vessel of this class to be handed over to the Soviets. 25X1
  - b. The M/V OB, a general cargo vessel of 6,500 DWT. This vessel which was built in the De Schelde Shipyard, Flessingen, is the second of this class to be handed over to the Soviets. 25X1
  - c. Two motor vessels of 10,000 DWT. one of these is 25X1
2. The Soviet Merchant Fleet, which at the end of 1953 contained about 2,000,000 tons of shipping, is to expand by the end of 1957 by an additional 500.00 tons. Approximately 400,000 tons of shipping are to be purchased abroad. 25X1
 

The expansion of the Soviet Merchant Fleet is misleading, as in 1953 about 60 percent of the ships were no less than 30 years old and many of these ships will be withdrawn from service. 25X1
3. Soviet orders have been placed abroad for the following ships:
  - a. 25X1
  - b. With De Schelde Shipyard, Flessingen: Six general cargo motor vessels of 6,500 DWT each; two of these have already been handed over to the Soviets.
  - c. With Howaldt Werke, Kiel: 14 whale factory ships each of 3,065 GRT with a processing capacity of 30 tons of fish per day; these were ordered in June 1954, and identical ships were ordered in January 1954. Ten fish-processing ships of about 3,000 DWT. Construction was started in January 1954; the first S-E-C-R-E-T 25X1

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vessel was to be delivered in February 1955 and the remainder will be delivered during 1955.

- d. With the Szczecin Shipyard: Six vessels for carrying ore and coal, of 3,300 DWT each; three of these vessels have already been delivered and the remainder were to be handed over by the end of 1954.

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